

## ATG marks its 50th Anniversary

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Founded 50 years ago by a small group of downstate Illinois lawyers, [Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund, Inc.](#) has evolved into a family of companies offering a broad spectrum of services to more than 4,000 lawyers in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan. The company now garners revenue in excess of 100 million annually and will issue its three millionth title insurance policy this year.

ATG was founded in 1964 thanks to the efforts of Urbana attorney Stanley B. Balbach and his law partners Richard L. Thies and Charles M. Webber. Balbach's early efforts built the foundation, and he remained active with the organization until his retirement from the board of directors in 2007. Balbach died in 2012 at the age of 92. Birnbaum cites newly elected Board Chair Ward F. McDonald, who served as CEO from 1970-1983, as the person most responsible for bringing ATG from a concept into a thriving business.



Peter J. Birnbaum

"Our 50th anniversary is a celebration of our founding members and the thousands of law firms and agents who have together built the company into the success it is today," said Peter Birnbaum, ATG President and CEO. It's also a celebration of our staff—loyal stewards of the company who believe in our mission to be the premier lawyer service organization for the benefit of the public."

In the lead-up to its 50th anniversary, ATG continues in its tradition of being a good corporate citizen. ATG is a leading supporter of the Illinois Bar Foundation, the Chicago Bar Foundation, Mercy Housing, the Jesse White Foundation, The Cara Program, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Urban Initiatives, University of Illinois College of Law, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, and many area bar associations.



ATG street banner on Wacker Drive.